

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following:

[0021] Precursor materials are injected into the cathodic arc column by forced convection. Prior art teaches the injection velocity of the precursor materials, with respect to the cathodic arc column, must be controlled to enable the precursors to cross the arc column boundary to yield an efficient process. But precursors may also be aspirated into the arc from the surrounding atmosphere in the absence of forced convection. The object of this invention is not limited by the method or efficiency by which precursors are introduced into the plasma--only that the precursors are introduced into the plasma and energy is transferred from the plasma to the precursors. For example, the precursor materials can also be injected into the anodic column as well. The form of the precursor does not limit the object of this invention; precursors are selected from a group comprising solids (powders, electrodes, etc.), liquids (atomized fluids, etc.) and gases or vapors.